

# The Prince George's Post



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CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE PHOTO BY MADELINE LIST

Althea Landymore (left), paralegal for the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, assists Bonnie Parker (right), 58, with legal advice on Oct. 14. Parker's daughter Morgan Diggs (middle), 34, sat in for support.

## Maryland Poor Deserve Free Attorneys in Family Law Cases, Panel Finds

By MADELINE LIST  
Capital News Service

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland – Many Marylanders without law degrees or deep pockets are acting as their own attorneys in certain civil cases. And they usually lose.

So a state task force this month recommended assigning free

lawyers in certain family-law cases, and spending nearly \$8 million over four years to help the poorest Marylanders work through the complex court system.

Nervous, confused and lost is what many reported feeling as they prepared to face their day in court without a lawyer to defend them.

"I don't have any clue, I don't have any idea at all what

I'm doing," said Sara Smith, 22, who on Tuesday was seeking legal advice for her divorce and child custody case at the Family Law Self Help Center, a clinic based out of the People's Law Library in Annapolis, Maryland, that provides free walk-in legal advice for the lawyer-less.

Only those charged with criminal offenses in the U.S.

have the right to a lawyer at public expense under the Constitution, not those involved in civil disputes. In Maryland, except for certain types of cases, like juvenile delinquency, people involved in civil matters must represent themselves in court if they can't afford a lawyer.

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## Golf Outing Sets New Record for Fundraising

By PRESS OFFICER  
Capitol College

Capitol's annual golf tournament, held at the Turf Valley resort in central Maryland on September 29, was the most successful so far, netting \$17,000 in scholarship money for students – a record amount in the seven-year history of the event.

Nineteen teams played the eighteen holes of the tournament, matching their skills against the challenges presented by Turf Valley's championship-level course. Competition was tight, with the top finishers separated by only a few strokes. First place went to Ross Meyers and Mike Milbourne, representing Nauticon Imaging Solutions, with a score of 56.

Team Lockheed Martin was next, with members Rick Geritz, Haden Land, Larry Letow and Roya Mohadjer scoring 58. Third place, and a score of 59, went to Pepco's team – Phil Kelly, Eric Kerzel, Craig Stark and Tas Taousakis.

Rachel Burns, assistant director of development, was the main organizer of the tournament. She says she was de-

lighted with the turnout and the level of support.

"The golf tournament is a fun event," she said. "Our alumni and vendors come out and have a great time. It's also a good way to fundraise and to raise the profile of the school."

"This year was particularly exciting because we had a tournament sponsor – a sponsor starting at the \$5,000 level. I was excited to see that level of support for the college. I also was really pleased that we had a sponsor for all eighteen holes. And I was impressed with the alumni and board members who sponsored a hole even if they didn't play golf, in honor or memory of someone," she said.

"Our board chairman, Harvey Weiss, came and supported the entire event – including with a hole sponsorship – even though he isn't a golfer himself," Burns said. "We also had enthusiastic volunteers who helped execute the event. And Turf Valley has a wonderfully responsive and accommodating staff; they are a real pleasure to work with."

A luncheon greeted the players as they returned from the course. Dr. Michael T.



PHOTO COURTESY CAPITOL COLLEGE

Wood, Capitol's president, took the podium to thank the event participants for their support and announce the tournament winners.

Also speaking during the luncheon were the two recipients of last year's golf scholarships, Garrett Baseley and Olin Haramoto.

Baseley, a two-time winner of the scholarship, told attendees that he is currently deciding whether to set his sights on the government or on the private sector after he graduates this coming May – a year early.

An information assurance major, Baseley has also been active on campus, serving as a senior RA in addition to being a Telecommunications Lab assistant and a student employee at Puente Library. He has also held a summer internship at the Defense Intelligence Agency and last year was inducted into the Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

"I'd like to thank everyone again for providing me with

See GOLF Page A3

## PG's County Library feeds 4,794 children this summer

By PRESS OFFICER  
PGCMLS

HYATTSVILLE, Md.— Prince George's County Memorial Library System in partnership with Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign and the Partnership to End Childhood Hunger in Maryland provided free lunches to 4,794 children this summer. The children came from families who depend on free and reduced-price meals.

The library provided lunches from June 16 through Aug. 22 on Mondays through Thursdays this summer.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System provides materials and information for study and personal enrichment, offering strategies for lifelong learning through access to varied media and professional guidance. The library system consists of branches in 19 communities including Accokeek, Baden, Beltsville, Bladensburg, Bowie, Fairmount Heights, Glenarden, Greenbelt, Hillcrest Heights, Hyattsville, Largo-Kettering, Laurel, Mount Rainier, New Carrollton, Oxon Hill, South Bowie, Spauldings, Surratt-Clinton and Upper Marlboro. ([www.pgcmls.info](http://www.pgcmls.info))

## Hoyer Encourages Marylanders to Vote in Upcoming Election

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of Steny H. Hoyer

UPPER MARLBORO, MD – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement today after attending a "Get Out The Vote" (GOTV) rally with President Barack Obama to support the Brown-Ulman campaign at Wise High School in Upper Marlboro.

"I was proud to join President Obama today to encourage Marylanders to vote and cast their ballots early in sup-

port of Anthony Brown and Ken Ulman as the next governor and lieutenant governor of the great State of Maryland. Lt. Governor Brown and County Executive Ulman are already fighting for a stronger middle class, safer streets and schools, and good jobs that make the American Dream accessible to more Marylanders. I know they will continue to work to build a better Maryland, and I look forward to working together with fellow Democrats to ensure we can achieve a historic victory for Maryland."

## Bartending Friends Look for Solution to Drink-Spiking Problem

By DENNIS TING  
Capital News Service

ADAMS MORGAN, WASHINGTON, D.C. – Mike Bokman and Frank Mills are bartenders and best friends who are also in the business of safety. Drink safety that is.

The DrinkLock is a new invention intended to be served as a drink coaster, which would then become an adhesive cover that would stick to the sides of the cup if the user needs to leave it unattended. Once the adhesive is removed, the word "void" appears to let the user know the cover has been lifted.

For Bokman, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, this is a very personal issue.

"I was actually a victim of drink tampering myself," Bokman said. "My 21st birthday, I woke up at this Greyhound station. I was bleeding. I had blood on my face and I had no clue what happened. I had no recollections. It was just like a total blackout."

Bokman and Mills said they were inspired to create the DrinkLock, which launched in September, after seeing that too many people were trying to protect their drinks by placing their coaster or napkins over the top of the glass.

By creating a tamper-resistant cover, Bokman and Mills, of Alexandria, Virginia, are hoping to be the first line of defense against drink tampering. Bokman acknowledged that there were other new tools out there to detect drink tampering, like the nail polish that detects date rape drugs developed earlier this year, but said he believes the DrinkLock is the most effective tool.

"Who knows what people are making in their basement," Bokman asked. "People make the craziest drugs. They put stuff in there. I don't know if I'd want to trust something that's going to change color. This (DrinkLock) is fool proof."

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### INSIDE

#### USDA Announces Measures to Help Farmers Diversify Weed Control Efforts

USDA has worked with the Weed Science Society of America for a number of years on identifying best management practices for farmers and on addressing impediments to adoption of those practices.

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#### Good News for Children When Congress Works Together

Continuing a long tradition of bipartisan leadership on behalf of abused and neglected children, last month both the House and the Senate passed and the President signed into law the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (H.R. 4980/P.L. 113-183).

Commentary, Page A4

#### Getting Long-Term Unemployed Americans Back to Work

In January, President Obama issued a three-part call to action – to employers, to communities across the country, and to federal agencies – to help Americans who are ready to work find jobs, and to help more of the long-term unemployed get back to work.

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#### Movie Review: "John Wick"

The story unfolds in the expected manner. Viggo agrees that Iosef was out of line, but he can't very well let somebody kill his son, not even John Wick. He puts Iosef in hiding and puts a price on Wick's head, bringing contract killers Marcus and Jenny into the story so they can pop up occasionally as additional obstacles.

Out on the Town, Page A6

#### Earth Talk

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that playing on artificial turf fields can cause cancer? If so, how can I minimize exposure for my sports-loving kids?

—Melanie Witmer, Syracuse, NY

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# Towns and NEIGHBORS

## In and Around Morningside-Skyline

by Mary McHale 301 735 3451

### Remember when the I-C-E became Post 9619?

It's not a banner year—like the 50th or 60th—but VFW Post 9619 in Morningside should be remembered anyway, on its 67th anniversary.

It all started with a bunch of Anacostia High School grads who went off to fight during World War II. After the war they came home to Anacostia and used to hang out at a drugstore on Good Hope Road. It was there they began to talk about starting their own VFW post. Since there was already a post in Anacostia, they applied to the Maryland VFW.

On Nov. 4, 1947, Veterans of Foreign War Post 9619 was chartered. Meetings were held on Tuesdays at Strick's Restaurant, corner of Branch Avenue and Naylor Road, and Robert Burns was the first commander. The Auxiliary was chartered a year later, on Nov. 13, 1948, and Burns' wife Ethel was the first president. The Post was dedicated to three young men who died in action during WWII—James Vachel Scott and Alfred H. Johnson who graduated from Anacostia High School and Michael Francis Collins who graduated from Eastern.

For the next 18 years, they met at various locations until, with the help of Stanley Ridge-way, they purchased the I-C-E Club on Suitland Road. It became the Post home in April 1965. The Bolling AFB motor pool towed a 3,000-pound cannon from Silver Hill to its new location in front of the Post, and two years later a memorial wall was installed, along with another cannon and a flagpole.

Their golden anniversary in 1997 was celebrated with a dinner-dance at Andrews Officers' Club with Roy and Patricia Loverin as chairmen. The 60th anniversary in 2007 was quieter, with all-day light refreshments and reduced-price drinks. On the 67th, well, we can at least thank those veterans with a prayer for their service to our country.

### Take the bus to the slots at Harrington Casino

The Ladies Auxiliary of VFW Post 9619 invites you to join them for a bus trip to Harrington Casino on Thursday, Nov. 6. You'll receive \$10 in

Free Slot Play and enjoy a Free Buffet. The bus loads at the Post, 6527 Suitland Road, at 9 a.m. and leaves from Harrington, Del., at 6 p.m.

This event benefits Suicide Prevention, the President's Special Project of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Department of Maryland. The fee is \$30, advance-sales only. See the bartender at the Post or call Auxiliary President Phyllis Cooks for information at 301-736-5022.

### Former resident dies in auto accident

Rita Virginia Gray, of Berkeley, W.V. a longtime Skyline resident, died Oct. 16 when the car she was driving collided with a truck. She was just out running errands, getting ready to travel to Georgia for a granddaughter's wedding. She was 77.

She was born in Helen, Md., daughter of Benjamin Leroy and Margaret Fuller Abell. She married Harry John Gray who went on to be chief of data processing for the D.C. Department of Motor Vehicles.

Rita and Harry lived for years on Ridgecrest Drive, and were much involved in the community, St. Philip's Parish, and their six children. Rita was a home-and-hospital teacher for the Prince George's Schools. At St. Philip's she served on the Parish Council, chaired the Liturgy Committee, taught CCD and, along with Harry, advised couples on preparation for marriage.

After they both retired by the mid-'90s, they moved to a hide-away home Harry built with the help of sons and sons-in-law, in the mountains of Grand Cacapon, West Virginia. Harry died Oct. 3, 2004, and Rita moved again, to Berkeley Springs, W.V. Once again she was heavily involved in her parish, St. Vincent de Paul. She was also a published author.

Rita is survived by her six children, Debbie, Terri, Jim, Ben, Chris and Kevin; 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grands. Mass of Christian Burial was at St. Vincent de Paul in Berkeley Springs. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton on Oct. 23. I was there, along with a lot of old-time Skyline and St. Philip's people who love and miss Rita.

### Neighbors

Trick-or-Treat hours in Morningside will be 6:30 to 8 on Hal-

loween night, Oct. 31. I wish I could say that the Costume Judging Party at Foulis or at the Town Hall will follow, as it did for many decades. But, thanks to the cost of insurance, Morningside no longer hosts such activities. Pity.

A good crowd turned out Oct. 18 for the Morningside Volunteer Fire Department's annual Open House. Free food (wraps, chicken nuggets, cookies, and more) and free smoke detectors. Great fun for the kids. And they cut a van open with the Jaws of Life.

Jennifer Tilghman came to Skyline School Oct. 23 to present each 3rd grader with a dictionary. The books were supplied by Keller Williams Preferred Properties.

My daughter Elaine and her husband Luke Seidman celebrated their silver wedding anniversary with three days on the Eastern Shore where they stayed at a bed-and-breakfast in Cambridge. They were married Oct. 7, 1989, at St. Augustine Church in Elkridge. They now live in Crownsville.

### Celebrate St. Margaret's Feast Day with gospel

St. Margaret of Scotland Parish invites to you their Feast Day Celebration on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 6 p.m. in St. Margaret's Omega Room, 410 Addison Road in Seat Pleasant. The event is free (goodwill offerings welcome) and light refreshments will be served.

The evening features New Vision (St. Margaret's Gospel Choir) and St. Margaret's Youth Choir. And helping the Saint Margaret Community celebrate 106 years of worship, service and fellowship will be guests including: Rhoda Sutton, Patrick Parks, The Cash Family, St. Thomas More Praise Team and St. Martin's Mass Choir,

### Milestones

Happy birthday to Carolyn Follin and Morningside Councilman Jim Ealey, Nov. 1; Carl McKlveen, Nov. 2; my son-in-law Luke Seidman and Flossie Keck, Nov. 3; Bella Cordero, Nov. 4; Brandon Wood and Bob Elborne, Nov. 5; Steve Call, Linda Beatty and Dennis Waby, Nov. 6.

Happy anniversary to Michael and Maria (Blankenship) Jinks, their 12th on Nov. 1; and to Al and Debbie Callison on Nov. 4.

be served. Call 301-868-1281. Rev. Dorothea J. Belt Stroman is the Pastor. The church is located at 10700 Brandywine Road Clinton, Maryland.

### BROWN ULMAN 2014

I took my niece Morgan Eugene to see President Barack Obama and Lt. Governor Brown at Henry A. Wise Jr. High School in Upper Marlboro Maryland on Sunday, October 19, 2014. President Barack Obama came to Maryland to hold a Rally for the Brown-Ulman 2014.

### 6th ANNUAL TRASH TO TREASURE: GREEN CRAFT FAIR

Come to the 6th Annual "Trash to Treasure Green Craft Fair" on Saturday, November 8, 2014 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Go green with your holiday shopping this year and explore local craters and artists who create treasures made from at least 50% organic, fair trade or sustainably harvested materials.

Items for sale include candles, knitwear bags, jewelry, recycled

wood carvings, paintings and more. All ages are welcome and the cost is free. Location is Watkins Nature Center 301 Watkins Park Drive, Upper Marlboro Maryland. Contact is 301-218-6702; TTY 301-218-6712.

### IT'S CASINO TIME

Come join us on our Pre-Veterans' Day Casino Midway-Harrington Casino and Slots in Harrington Delaware with lots of fun, 50/50 and good old socializing on Sunday, November 9, 2014.

Bus will leave Park-N-Ride, Clinton, Maryland at 10:30 AM and St. Philip's Church at 11:00 AM and return at approximately 7:30 PM. Cars can remain parked at the church if parked at the lower parking level.

There is a \$10.00 rebate plus the full Buffet Meal. Donation is \$40.00. There are absolutely no refunds. All tickets must be paid in full by November 2, 2014. Sponsored by Shirley A. Cleaves. For tickets contact Shirley A. Cleaves (302) 690-4260 or Doretha A. Savoy (301) 233-3136.

## Neighborhood Events

### Lady Bulldogs Place Second in Bowie State Pre-Homecoming Challenge

BOWIE, Md. (Oct. 16, 2014)— Junior Samantha Ferguson led the Bowie State women's cross country team to a second place finish at their own Pre-Homecoming Challenge on Thursday afternoon. The Lincoln University captured the 5K women's title with 15 points. D

Ferguson finished with a time of 21:09 helping pace the Lady Bulldogs (32 points). Washington Adventist University finished third overall (53 points) and Elizabeth City State University finished in fourth place (82).

Bowie State sophomore Treyniqua Dickey finished the course in seventh place and a time of 22:04. Seniors Kayla Watson and Rayshawn Penn placed 9th and 10 overall, coming in with times of 23:46 and 24:05 respectively. Senior Crishonda Coffey completed the course in 24:42 and a 12th place finish.

Lincoln's Shana Brown claimed the women's individual title, running the course in 17:58 while teammates Alexis Cabbage and Kaydee-Ann White finished second and third overall.

### Maryland Move-Over Law in Effect, Includes Tow Truck Drivers

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Effective October 1, motorists in Maryland are required to move into an open lane away from tow trucks attending to roadside emergencies, or to slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe, just as they must now do when approaching police and other emergency vehicles stopped on the road side.

Maryland State Police Superintendent, Colonel Marcus L. Brown joined elected officials and representatives from AAA Mid-Atlantic to announce Maryland's expanded move-over law at Maryland State Police Headquarters in Pikesville on September 24. Long-time proponents of traffic safety in Annapolis, State Senator Nancy C. Jacobs (R, District 34) and State Delegate James E. Malone Jr. (D, District 12A) also participated. Both Jacobs and Malone have been lead sponsors for the move-over legislation for years.

The initial move over/slow down legislation that passed in 2010 only applied to fire and police vehicles; however, the expanded law will now include tow trucks. "This legislation honors the memories of those who have lost their lives. It provides a safety net of protection for towers who serve us each and every day on Maryland's highways," said Senator Jacobs. Delegate Malone, who has also served the citizens of Baltimore County for nearly 40 years as a firefighter added, "If people slow down and move-over, this law will save lives."

"The intent of the move-over law is to provide an extra barrier of safety for police officers, fire fighters, emergency rescue personnel, and tow service operators working along Maryland roads. It is imperative that drivers stay alert for these types of situations and move away from them or slow down as they pass by the traffic stop or incident scene," said Colonel Marcus L. Brown. Brown also remarked about the numerous calls he

has received as the head of both the Maryland Transportation Authority Police and the State Police, where he's had to hear the unfortunate news that one of his officers or troopers had been killed or injured while doing their jobs on the side of the road.

Trooper Jacqueline Kline was one of those injured in the line of duty nearly a year ago. She was assisting another trooper on a traffic stop when she was struck and seriously injured. Trooper Kline, whose injuries were so severe that she has not yet been able to return to full duty, courageously spoke of the horrible ordeal.

In addition to the dangers facing law enforcement on the roads, tow truck operators are also at risk as they service disabled motorists. Nationwide, from January 2000 until December 31, 2005, approximately 130 tow operators in the U.S. were killed from tow-related incidents or accidents. Of those killed, many were involved in service activities on the highway, according to American Towman Magazine. In Maryland, in August 2011, 38 year-old, tow truck driver, James Schreiber was struck and killed in Anne Arundel County while assisting a disabled truck. Unfortunately these tragic incidents are all too common.

"AAA has been a vocal advocate of move-over legislation across the country and applauds the sponsors for recognizing the importance of including tow truck drivers in Maryland's Move over law," stated Mahlon G. "Lon" Anderson, Managing Director of Public and Government Affairs for AAA Mid-Atlantic. "Move over laws provide added protection to those who perform dangerous jobs and come to our rescue when we become stranded or injured on the roads."

According to Maryland State Police, violating the move-over law can result in a fine of \$110 and one point. If the violation contributes to a traffic crash, the fine is \$150 and three points. If the violation contributes to a traffic crash resulting in death or serious injury, the fine is \$750 and three points, in addition to the devastating personal tragedies a crash like that will cause.

Public education continues to be essential. Despite Maryland's law being on the books for four years and numerous public awareness efforts by police and traffic safety advocates, many motorists continue to ignore or be unaware of the law. According to a national poll by Mason Dixon Polling & Research, sponsored by the National Safety Commission, 71 percent of Americans have not heard of move-over laws.

### Fairness For All Marylanders Act in Effect

Baltimore - On October 1, the Fairness for All Marylanders Act went into effect. This law prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and expression in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations and credit.

Keith Thirion, EQMD's Director of Advocacy and Programs, observes, "Transgender Marylanders are finally free to work for a living, secure housing, and get served lunch at a restaurant knowing

they are protected from discrimination by law. While prejudice and discrimination won't be eradicated in one day, the Free State is one huge step closer to ensuring that all Marylanders are free to be who they are regardless of their gender identity. We would not be celebrating today without the courage of transgender Marylanders who shared their stories and stood up for their basic rights and human dignity."

"In 2001, when protections were added to our anti-discrimination laws for lesbian, gay and bisexual Marylanders, Equality Maryland (then Free State Justice) vowed to not stop fighting for transgender Marylanders," comments Carrie Evans, Executive Director of Equality Maryland. "While we didn't expect it to take 13 years to pass this law, we stuck with it. Thousands of people kept the pressure on; showing up at Lobby Days, writing and calling their elected officials, testifying before committees, phone-banking, donating money, you name it, we did it over the course of these 13 years."

Evans goes on to note, "In 2014 we had exceptional political leadership for this bill. The chief sponsors, Senator Rich Madaleno and Delegate Luke Clippinger, were champions for transgender Marylanders and did not rest until the final votes were taken. Governor Martin O'Malley surprised participants at our Lobby Day rally and assured the crowd that this was going to be the year that we finally passed this vital law. Lt. Governor Anthony Brown testified in support of the bill before the House Committee and remained involved with helping ensure we had the votes to pass the bill."

These leaders had this to say about the law coming into effect.

### Lt. Governor Anthony Brown

"I supported this legislation because I believe every person deserves to be treated and protected equally under the law," said Lt. Governor Anthony Brown. "At a time when more than half of transgender residents in our state have reported harassment in their community, this law will be a critical tool in our efforts to protect all Marylanders from discrimination. I want to thank Equality Maryland and the other advocates and legislators whose tireless efforts made today possible."

### Senator Rich Madaleno

"I'm proud to have championed the Fairness for All Marylanders Act to passage this year. For far too long, transgender Marylanders have faced discrimination with no legal recourse. Today, our state is sending the message that all Marylanders deserve to be treated equally, free from discrimination based on gender identity."

### Delegate Luke Clippinger

"I am proud of the work we did to make this day possible. Some days were harder than others, but we kept going until we got to the finish line. Today we breathe in a bit more fairness and equality."

# COMMUNITY

## Practical Money Skills

By Jason Alderman

### Weigh 2015 Medicare Part D, Advantage Plan Choices Carefully

If you're currently enrolled in Medicare, what you do or don't do over the next few weeks could determine whether you can secure the best, most affordable coverage next year. Here's why:

Medicare Part D prescription plans frequently change premiums, drug formularies, deductibles and copayment amounts for specific drugs from year to year. Medicare Advantage plans often make similar changes; plus doctors, hospitals and pharmacies may drop out of their preferred provider networks.

Thus, by simply choosing the same options for 2015 without investigating alternatives, you could wind up paying hundreds or thousands of dollars more for similar healthcare services.

Medicare's annual election period (a.k.a. open enrollment) to make coverage changes for 2015 runs from October 15, 2014, to December 7, 2014. For most people, this is the best — and sometimes only — opportunity to make coverage changes. (Exceptions are made for people who qualify for a special enrollment period — see "Medicare & You" at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) for details.)

If you already have traditional Medicare Parts A and B, you needn't make any changes; however, if you also have Part D, you must either reenroll in your current plan or choose another.

#### During open enrollment you can:

- Switch from Medicare Parts A, B and D to Medicare Advantage or vice versa.
- Switch from one Advantage plan to another.
- Switch from an Advantage plan offering drug coverage to one that doesn't or vice versa.
- Join a Part D plan, switch from one plan to another or drop coverage altogether.

Current Advantage plan enrollees can also use the Medicare Advantage disenrollment period (January 1, 2015, to February 14, 2015) to switch back to Medicare Parts A, B and D. However they cannot:

- Switch from original Medicare to Medicare Advantage.
- Switch from one Advantage plan to another.
- Switch from one Part D plan to another.

#### When choosing next year's Part D plan:

- Carefully review your plan's "Annual Notice of Change" for substantive changes to premiums, deductibles, copayments, covered drugs, participating pharmacies, etc.
- Notice whether they've changed copayments/coinsurance for your medications or possibly dropped some altogether. Ask your doctor whether comparable, covered drugs will work; otherwise you could pay much more next year.
- Even if your plan hasn't changed substantially, it's still wise to use the Medicare Plan Finder at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) to compare all available plans. You'll be prompted to enter your medications and dosages. The calculator then ranks plans by "star rating" and overall cost.
- Note: The lowest premium may not be your best bet — sometimes plans with higher monthly premiums have a lower overall cost due to their more favorable deductible, copayment and coinsurance amounts.

Medicare Advantage plans are HMO- or PPO-type alternatives to Medicare Parts A and B. Most cover drugs and some include extra benefits like vision and dental coverage at additional cost. They usually have lower deductibles and copayments but require you to use the plan's provider network. A few tips:

- If your Advantage plan includes drug coverage, you don't need Part D.
- Carefully review the "Annual Notice of Change" from your plan for any substantive changes.
- Even if your plan hasn't changed substantially, you can use the same Medicare Plan Finder as above to review available plans. As with Part D plans, an Advantage plan with a lower premium might have a higher overall cost, due to various restrictions.

Bottom line: Reviewing your Medicare options each year is complicated and time-consuming. But if you don't and your plans change significantly, it could cost you a bundle next year.

**DON'T FORGET  
TO VOTE  
November 4th  
Your Vote is Important!**

## USDA Announces Measures to Help Farmers Diversify Weed Control Efforts

By PRESS OFFICER  
USDA

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced several steps that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is taking to address the increase of herbicide resistant weeds in U.S. agricultural systems.

"Weed control in major crops is almost entirely accomplished with herbicides today," said Vilsack. "USDA, working in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, must continue to identify ways to encourage producers to adopt diverse tactics for weed management in addition to herbicide control. The actions we are taking today are part of this effort."

Today USDA is announcing several of the steps it is taking to help farmers manage their herbicide resistant weed problems in a more holistic and sustainable way:

- USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will offer financial assistance under its Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for herbicide re-

sistant weed control practices that utilize Integrated Pest Management plans and practices.

- Later this year NRCS will be soliciting proposals under the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Program for innovative conservation systems that address herbicide resistant weeds.

- USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will actively promote use of best management practices (BMPs) in design protocols for regulated authorized releases of genetically engineered (GE) crops and will include recommendations for BMPs with the authorization of field trials of HR crops.

- USDA is partnering with the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA) and is providing funds to develop education and outreach materials for various stakeholders on managing herbicide-resistant weeds. The Secretary has directed Dr. Sheryl Kunickis, Director of the USDA Office of Pest Management Policy, as the point person leading this effort with the USDA.

The issue of herbicide resistant weeds has become one of increasing importance for agriculture. When herbicides are repeatedly used to control weeds, the weeds that survive herbicide treatment can multiply and spread.

With EPA's announcement today on the registration of new uses for herbicide mixtures containing the herbicides 2,4-D and glyphosate (in the Enlist® formulation) in conjunction with new genetically engineered crop varieties, farmers are being offered one more new tool to better manage emerging populations of herbicide-resistant weeds in corn and soybeans crops. In its decision for 2,4-D use on genetically modified corn and soybean, EPA has outlined new requirements for registrants as part of a product stewardship program.

The USDA Office of Pest Management Policy worked with EPA to address the issue of herbicide resistance through appropriate label language that will require registrants to develop a stewardship program for the herbicide, develop

training and education on proper use of the product that includes diversifying weed management, investigate and report nonperformance, and develop and implement a remediation plan for suspected herbicide resistant weeds.

EPA intends to require the same stewardship plans for all new applications for product registration on genetically modified crops with the goal being to encourage effective resistance management while maintaining needed flexibility for growers.

USDA recognizes that the problem of herbicide resistant weed control will not be solved solely through the application of new herbicides. USDA has worked with the Weed Science Society of America for a number of years on identifying best management practices for farmers and on addressing impediments to adoption of those practices.

USDA will continue to work to ensure that growers have the diverse tools they need to address the management of herbicide resistant weeds.

#### Golf from A1

this scholarship — it will be well utilized," Baseley said.

Olin Haramoto, also a senior, expressed his appreciation to the scholarship donors for their generosity, which he said had enabled him to complete his degree in electrical engineering.

"When I retired from the Air Force in 2010, the

job market was struggling and I knew that I needed to re-train in order to compete in the job market," Haramoto said. "Capitol College has allowed me to grow well beyond my skills as a technician and will let me re-enter the job market with a much better skill set. Thank you again for helping make this possible."

#### Attorneys from A1

And few can afford the high rates, which run around \$80 per hour on the cheap side, not to mention myriad other costs and filing fees involved with going to court, said John Pollock, an attorney at the Public Justice Center, a nonprofit legal advocacy organization in Maryland.

"They don't even have enough for their basic necessities," he said, "much less legal representation."

About 80 percent of low-income Marylanders involved in civil lawsuits represent themselves in court and are 3.5 times more likely to lose their case than if they had a lawyer representing them, according to a 2014 report from a state panel.

The Task Force to Study Implementing a Civil Right to Counsel in Maryland is a group of judges, attorneys, delegates and state senators that has been meeting since December to discuss the benefits of providing legal representation to low-income people involved in civil disputes.

Going through the complicated process of law can be overwhelming and intimidating without help, said Maria Rhine, 48, who was also at the law library Tuesday, seeking help filing for emergency custody of her grandchild.

"Knowing what paperwork to fill out, that's a challenge, what steps to take," she said. "It's a scary situation."

Some fear they may break down or get too emotional in court, potentially affecting the outcome of their case. Having a lawyer to speak for them could help ease that stress, said Bonnie Parker, 58, who is fighting for visitation rights for her grandchild. "He or she could be that voice for me that I need because it is emotional," said Parker, also looking for assistance at the help center on Tuesday.

Low-income Marylanders who qualify for legal aid should have a right to a lawyer at public

expense in cases involving child custody and civil domestic violence matters, two types of high-stakes cases with high rates of self-representation in Maryland, according to the report, which the task force submitted to Gov. Martin O'Malley and the Maryland General Assembly on Oct. 1.

To qualify for an attorney under the task force's recommendations, one must fall within 125 percent of the federal poverty line, meaning an annual salary of less than \$14,588 for an individual and less than \$29,813 for a family of four.

The majority of clients at the center are involved in custody cases, and most fall within federal poverty guidelines, although the help center's walk-in hours are open to anyone without a lawyer regardless of income, said Amanda Eden, managing attorney at the Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, a non-profit law firm that provides legal services to low-income people. Eden met clients at the law library on Tuesday.

Family law cases, which include child custody and domestic violence matters, make up over one third of all cases filed in the state, according to the Maryland Legal Services Corp., which raises funds and gives grants to legal aid nonprofits.

People involved in these types of cases need the most pro bono help of any other civil case type in Maryland, said Del. Kathleen Dumais, D-Montgomery County, who served on the task force.

At least one party had to represent themselves in 78 percent of family law cases heard in Maryland in 2010, according to the task force's report.

To address this problem, the task force suggests rolling out more than \$7.8 million over the course of four years, mostly in state funding, as well as grants from the Maryland Legal Service Corp., to existing legal aid programs and to fund pilot programs that focus specifically on family law matters.

Among the Capitol students who played in this year's tournament was Keith Hinton. It was his second time at the event. The Turf Valley course, he said, "was challenging but very fun to play."

"Every hole gave you something different to tackle. Some had blind drives, others tight fairways, even some of the putts were interesting. While I

learned that I wasn't the best driver, I did meet with success while putting on the greens. It was truly exciting being able to sink a couple birdies for my team," he said.

"The opportunity has truly been exciting and humbling," he said. "The entire experience has left me wanting to play more. I can't wait for next year's tournament!"

Although providing this service would be an expensive investment, it may save the state money in the long run, said Debra Gardner, legal director of the Public Justice Center.

Trials would run more smoothly and efficiently if both parties were represented by professional lawyers, she said. The state would also save on extra social services it may otherwise have to provide for people who lose their cases and need further interventions later on, she said.

"It saves money for society in other ways by preventing homelessness, instability in families, shelter costs and other kinds of costs," she said. "Paying for a lawyer handling the case may be quite cost-effective by comparison."

A bill, sponsored by Del. Sandy Rosenberg, D-Baltimore, outlining the task force's recommendations, will be introduced to the legislature at the start of the next session, which begins on Jan. 14, said Dumais, who plans to co-sponsor the bill.

#### Expanding Legal Support in Child Custody Cases

Low-income parents and children in custody cases involving allegations of abuse or neglect of a child already have the right to a lawyer at public expense in Maryland, but not in custody disputes where the child is not in danger. About 31,000 additional low-income parents would qualify for legal aid if that right were extended to all custody matters, according to a 2011 state justice commission report.

To serve these low-income parents, the task force suggests using the Judiciary Family Law Project, an existing Maryland program funded by the Maryland Legal Services Corp., to pilot the idea of providing lawyers to parents in all types of child custody cases.

The state and The Maryland Legal Services Corp. should provide funding and grants, totaling around \$3 million, over the course of the next four years to

local Judicare providers in Baltimore City and Prince George's, Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties, which together represented 30 percent of all civil family law cases filed in the state in 2013, according to the Maryland Judiciary Annual Statistical Abstract, a report from the Maryland Courts.

#### More Lawyers for Civil Domestic Violence Cases

To aid low-income Marylanders involved in civil domestic violence cases, the task force suggests rolling out \$4.8 million in state funding over the course of four years to organizations that provide legal representation, among other services, to victims of domestic violence, like the House of Ruth Maryland, a Baltimore center that assists women victims of domestic violence.

Victims of domestic violence can file for a week-long protective measure without a long legal procedure, but receiving a full restraining order involves a court process, especially if the case includes other complicating factors like child custody or financial matters, said Jane Murphy, a law professor at the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Murphy studied the strategies used by women dealing with domestic violence and found that of those who filed for restraining orders, less than half were granted the full restraining order, according to a 2003 study she authored. Of those who had a lawyer, 83 percent were successful in getting the restraining order while only 32 percent of those without legal counsel managed to win their case, according to her study.

Lawyers should be provided for income-eligible victims as well as the alleged abusers so that the trial is fair and balanced, according to the task force.

"In my experience women don't seek (restraining orders) frivolously," Murphy said. "But having an attorney on both sides is consistent with our legal system."

# COMMENTARY

## Cong. Steny H. Hoyer House Democratic Minority Whip



### Hoyer Holds Meeting with Members of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Associations

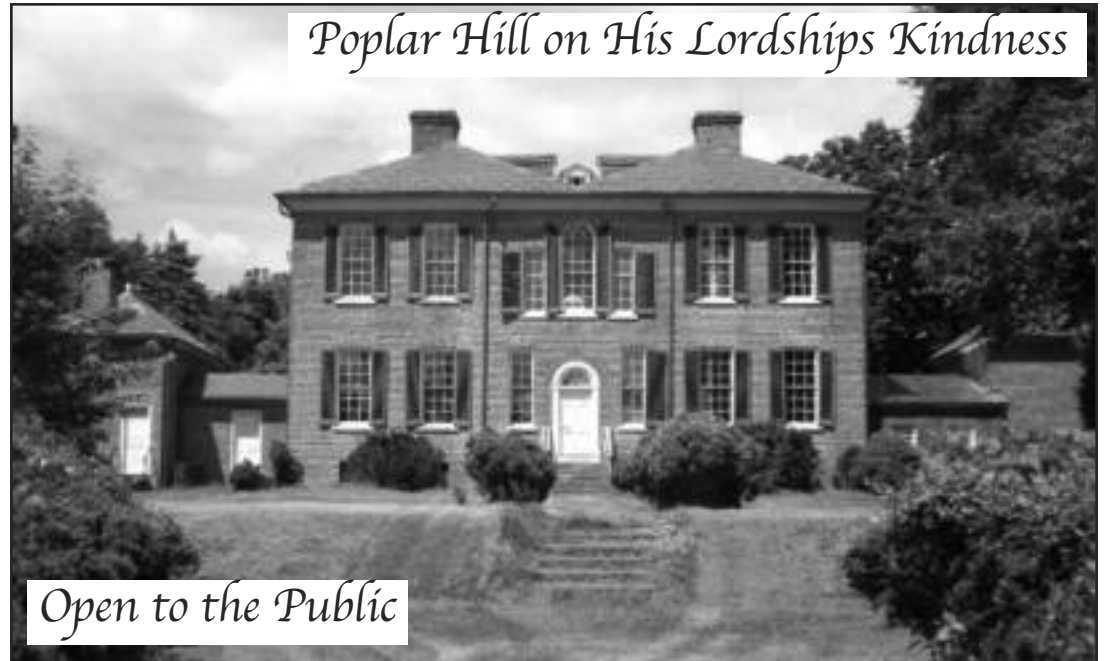
BOWIE, MD — Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) held a meeting in Bowie, Maryland with members of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Associations (NARFE) from the Fifth District and throughout Maryland to discuss a variety of issues affecting federal employees and retirees including pay and benefits, federal retirement programs, and the impact of sequestration.

"I was pleased to join NARFE members today to express my gratitude for their service to our country and to discuss some of the pressing issues affecting our federal retirees," stated Congressman Hoyer. "I have continued to focus this Congress on standing up for federal workers and retirees by opposing pension cuts and other attempts to shift the burden of deficit reduction onto their shoulders alone. Already, federal employees have contributed \$138 billion to deficit reduction while other Americans have not been asked to do so. This comes at a time when federal employees are making, according to the Federal Salary Council, on average 35.4% less than private sector workers in comparable positions. Congress ought to work toward a

big and balanced agreement to restore fiscal sustainability — not a piecemeal approach that unfairly targets federal employees. I will continue to advocate on behalf of all current and retired federal employees to ensure they earn the recognition they deserve for their contributions to our nation."

Congressman Hoyer represents over 62,000 federal employees in Maryland's Fifth District, which is home to NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Webster Field, the Naval Surface Warfare Center at Indian Head, USDA's Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, the NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, National Archives II, and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

Founded in 1921, NARFE advocates for fair pay, retirement, and health care benefits on behalf of federal employees, retirees and their survivors. The members in attendance at the meeting were retired employees from several federal agencies and branches of the military.



Poplar Hill on His Lordships Kindness

Open to the Public

PHOTO COURTESY WIKIMAPIA

**POPLAR HILL ON HIS LORDSHIPS KINDNESS**  
This National Historic Landmark derives its name from a 7,000-acre land grant from Lord Baltimore to a relative. It has been the home of justices of the county and levy courts, a U.S. Senator, and a U.S. ambassador. The property contains historic outbuildings such as a privy, a dairy, slave infirmary, and smoke house. Open Mar-Dec, Fri, 1 to 4 p.m.; 2nd and 4th Sun, 12 noon to 4 p.m. with last tour at 3:30 p.m. Group tours and alternate visiting hours welcome by appointment.

## Child Watch by Marion Wright Edelman



### Good News for Children When Congress Works Together

While we rarely hear good news these days about Congress, I have some to share. Continuing a long tradition of bipartisan leadership on behalf of abused and neglected children, last month both the House and the Senate passed and the President signed into law the Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (H.R. 4980/P.L. 113-183). This new legislation improves the child welfare system to prevent children and youths in foster care from becoming victims of sex trafficking and protects foster care youths who are already victims. It offers new hope of permanent families for children and extra support for those youths who end up aging out of foster care. The Children's Defense Fund (CDF) and many other children's advocates strongly supported this bill, and we applaud Representatives Dave Camp (R-MI) and Sander Levin (D-MI), Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and Representatives David Reichert (R-WA) and Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) who led the charge in responding to some of our most vulnerable children's needs.

There are more than 400,000 children in foster care, and though intended to be temporary, the average length of stay for children in foster care is nearly two years, with nearly one third staying longer. Too many of these youths — over 23,000 — end up leaving foster care without permanent families. These youths are particularly vulnerable to child sex trafficking. While there is no good national data, there are state and local statistics that confirm how vulnerable children in foster care are to being victimized. For example, in Connecticut 98 percent of child victims of sex trafficking were reported to be involved in the child welfare system, and in New York for 85 percent of the child victims there was a similar pattern. The new federal law requires child welfare agencies to determine appropriate services for these youths who are trafficked and provide new data on youths who are victims of trafficking. Agencies also must report to law enforcement

about agency children who are victims of trafficking or have run away from foster care, which adds another layer of protection for those at special risk of being victimized. It establishes a National Advisory Committee on the Sex Trafficking of Children and Youth in the United States.

The new law encourages more opportunities for youths in foster care to lead "normal" lives by making it easier for their foster parents to allow them to participate in age- or developmentally-appropriate extracurricular and enrichment activities that currently often require permission from the child welfare agency. It empowers older youths in care by giving them a voice at the table when decisions about their futures are being made and making sure they are advised of their legal rights and provided essential documents, including a birth certificate, Social Security card, and driver's license or state ID, which they'll need to successfully transition from care at age 18 or older.

CDF applauds how the new law helps promote permanent families for more children in foster care. It extends funding for Family Connection Grants

and will prevent children from lingering in long-term foster care. It improves the Adoption Incentive Program and adds fiscal incentives for the first time for states that move more children from foster care to legal guardians. It also requires states to fund post-adoption and post-guardianship services to keep children from re-entering foster care.

The new bipartisan law shows good things can happen when members of Congress work together. CDF is looking forward now to joining with others to ensure many more children in foster care truly benefit from these improvements and end up in safe permanent families.

*Marion Wright Edelman is President of the Children's Defense Fund whose Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. For more information go to [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org). Mrs. Edelman's Child Watch Column also appears each week on The Huffington Post*

## Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League



### Voter ID Laws Tumble in Texas and Wisconsin — and Then Rise Again in Texas

"The Court holds that SB 14 creates an unconstitutional burden on the right to vote, has an impermissible discriminatory effect against Hispanics and African-Americans, and was imposed with an unconstitutional discriminatory purpose. The Court further holds that SB 14 constitutes an unconstitutional poll tax."

— U.S. District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos in striking down the Texas voter ID law

Last week, voter ID laws that could have disenfranchised nearly a million voters in the November 4 midterm elections in two states — Texas and Wisconsin — were ruled unconstitutional. These voting rights victories were critical because of the traditional challenges and unprecedented high stakes associated with this year's midterms.

Then, on Tuesday, in a low blow to voting rights across the nation, a federal appeals court blocked the lower court's decision and cleared the way for Texas to enforce its suppressive voter ID requirements in the upcoming November elections. This Texas law changes existing procedures and requires all voters to present a photo ID before being allowed into the voting booth. In the past, voters could demonstrate their identities in various ways. Now, only a small number of documents are permissible — shockingly, gun permits, but not student IDs, will be acceptable.

Voter participation typically drops off in non-presidential election years, with many analysts noting that recent midterm turnout has been about 40 percent compared to 56 percent in presidential years. The non-partisan Voter Participation Center (VPC) predicts an even steeper decline in 2014 among what they have termed "The Rising American Electorate or RAE" (people of color, unmarried women and youth voters ages 18-29). They predict that "more than one-in-three RAE voters who turned out in 2012 will NOT turn out in 2014 (34.5% of those who voted in 2012, or 21.8 million RAE voters, will stay home). The predicted drop-off among all other voters is only 17.5% or 12.2 million voters." With so much at stake — everything from police shootings of unarmed Black men to equitable implementation of Common Core State Standards to rising income inequality — we simply cannot afford to sit this one out.

Despite many attempts to keep certain groups from the polls, champions for democracy and civil rights — such as the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, led by Sherrilyn Ifill and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, led by Barbara Arnwine — continue to fight to protect our voting rights. We must also continue to build on the momentum of 2012 when, for the first time in history, African Americans voted at a higher rate than whites. The repeal of the Texas voter ID law, considered to be the most restrictive in the nation,

could have added to that momentum — if it had been upheld.

In striking down the law, U.S. District Judge Nelva Ramos ruled that the difficult and expensive effort to obtain photo IDs from more than 600,000 Texas citizens, many of whom are poor, amounted to an unconstitutional poll tax. She also debunked the law's bogus claim of preventing voter fraud by pointing out that "In the 10 years preceding passage of SB 14 in Texas, only two cases of in-person voter impersonation fraud were prosecuted to conviction — a period of time in which 20 million votes were cast."

Also, last Thursday, over the objections of Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas, the United States Supreme Court blocked implementation of Wisconsin's voter ID law. Previously ruled unconstitutional because of its disproportionate impact on African American and Hispanic voters, the Wisconsin law could have disenfranchised 300,000 residents who do not have acceptable photo IDs, including a high number of people of color.

Commenting on both initial rulings, Attorney General Eric Holder said, "We are extremely heartened by the court's decision, which affirms our position that the Texas voter identification law unfairly and unnecessarily restricts access to the franchise... We are also pleased that the Supreme Court has refused to allow Wisconsin to implement its own restrictive voter identification law."

Unfortunately, the latest Texas ruling could not be more disheartening. The three-judge panel in the federal appeals court did not find the lower court's ruling wrong or unlawful. Instead, they chose to delay consideration of whether the ruling should permanently stand. In a concurring opinion on the appeal, citing concerns about potential confusion from last-minute changes in the voting rules as reason enough to allow Texas to enforce its restrictive voting laws, Judge Gregg Costa also admitted that "we should be extremely reluctant to have an election take place under a law that a district court has found, and that our court may find, is discriminatory." We agree.

In 1964, the Supreme Court said, "No right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live. Other rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined."

That basic principle stands today. Voter suppression and disenfranchisement far outweigh any trumped up and spurious claims of election day confusion. The first step in ensuring our voices are heard is ensuring our votes are cast. Don't let anything keep you from the polls on November 4 — even in Texas.

## The Prince George's Post

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# BUSINESS

## The American Counseling Association's Counseling Corner

### Tips For Reducing The Stress Of Those College Application Deadlines

The life of most teenagers, according to the teens, is usually full of stress. But a period of real stress for many teens is the college application process. Fortunately, there are things that can be done to make college decisions much less stressful the teen and his or her family.

Start by recognizing that making intelligent choices about college takes time. Most school counselors advise October of the student's junior year (NOT senior year) as the time to begin the college application process. However, even if that time has already passed for your student, there's still a lot that can be done to make the application process less stressful.

The place to start, whether the student is now a high school junior or senior, is by realistically evaluating what schools should be considered. And the best starting point for such decisions is with one or more honest family discussions about college costs and the family's ability to pay those costs. Is a scholarship possible? What savings are available? Will there be student loans, and who will pay them back?

The next step in narrowing the range of college choices is an honest evaluation of the student's academic abilities. What kind of grades has she or he had in high school? PSAT, SAT or ACT test scores are important to most colleges. That grade point average and test scores are important factors in deciding what schools will be a good academic fit.

Once you have a good grasp of family finances and the student's academic levels, it's time to do your research. Schedule an appointment with your student's school counselor for his or her advice on what college choices might benefit your student.

Next, check out some of the numerous college guidebooks that you can get from your local bookstore, library or possibly your school counselor. They offer profiles of colleges that include college costs, admission requirements, majors offered and much more.

Then go visit the online sites for colleges of interest, and take the time to go to college fairs or open houses being sponsored by colleges under consideration.

Yes, it's a lot of work and no, you still haven't completed the first college application. But starting early, planning realistically and investigating thoroughly will help to ensure that the right college choice is being made. And it certainly will make the final college application process much less stressful.

*Counseling Corner" is provided by the American Counseling Association. Comments and questions to ACAcorner@counseling.org or visit the ACA website at www.counseling.org*

### Free Cab Rides in PG County on October 31st to Combat DUI

Upper Marlboro, MD, October 22 — As a means of making area roadways a little less frightening this Halloween, free cab rides will be offered to would-be drunk drivers throughout Prince George's County, Maryland next Friday evening, October 31st.

Offered by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the Halloween SoberRide® program will be in operation at 10:00 pm on Friday, October 31st and operate until 4:00 am on Saturday, November 1st, as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide® phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home. AT&T wireless customers can dial #WRAP for the same service.

Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provide this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may attempt to drive home after drinking.

SoberRide® is offered in the: District of Columbia; throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

"The scary fact is that nearly half (48%\*) of all U.S. traffic deaths occurring during Halloween are caused by drunk drivers," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

Sponsors of this year's Halloween SoberRide® offering include: AAA Mid-Atlantic, Anheuser-Busch, Diageo, District of Columbia Association of Beverage Alcohol Wholesalers, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility, Giant Food, MillerCoors, Red Top Cab of Arlington, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Participating taxicab companies include: Alexandria Yellow Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Northern Virginia Checker Cab; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide® program has provided 60,724 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide® initiative can be found at [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

## Getting Long-Term Unemployed Americans Back to Work

By PRESS OFFICER  
Office of the White House

In January, President Obama issued a three-part call to action — to employers, to communities across the country, and to federal agencies — to help Americans who are ready to work find jobs, and to help more of the long-term unemployed get back to work. That included unveiling a set of "best practices" being taken by leading employers — including over 80 of the nation's largest companies — around recruiting and hiring the long-term unemployed, to remove some of the barriers that make it harder for them to navigate the hiring process.

Today, building on the President's call to action, the White House is providing an update on progress since January and additional steps — taken in conjunction with businesses, non-profit leaders, governors and mayors and federal agencies — to help ensure that Americans still looking for work have a fair shot, and American businesses benefit as a result.

Since December, the long-term unemployment rate has fallen from 2.5 percent to 1.9 percent. The number of long-term unemployed — those unemployed more than 6 months — has fallen by 900,000. This decline accounts for around 90 percent of the total drop in unemployment in the past 10 months. But there is still work left to do. As more jobs are created, it is critical that Americans with skills, experience, and a desire to work have every opportunity to get back to work to maximize the full potential of our talent pool.

**On October 15 the White House announced:**

- **\$170 Million in DOL Grants to Support Partnerships that Connect the Long-Term Unemployed to Work.** Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez is announcing 23 grants from the Department of Labor's H-1B funds — totaling \$170 million — for programs in 20 states and Puerto Rico to help the long-term unemployed return to the workforce. Grants were awarded to partnerships between non-profits, local government, and employers to train and match long-term unemployed job seekers for in-demand jobs.

- **Progress on Business Efforts to Improve Recruiting and Hiring of Long-Term Unemployed.** In January, the Administration announced a call to action for businesses to adopt best practices for hiring the long-term unemployed and over 300 businesses — including 80 of the nation's largest companies — announced they were adopting these best practices for hiring and recruiting the long-term unemployed to ensure that these candidates receive a fair shot during the hiring process. Today, the Vice President, the Director of the National Economic Council, and the Secretary of Labor are meeting with the Chief Human Resource Officers of many of these leading companies who have found innovative ways to better integrate applications from the long-term unemployed into their hiring process. Deloitte Consulting and Rockefeller Foundation are also releasing handbooks, created in consultation with HR departments in many companies, which can be used by employers and long-term unemployed job seekers to return a greater number of people to the workforce.

- **Ensuring Federal Hiring Process Gives Long-Term Unemployed Job Applicants a**

**Fair Shot.** Following up on a Presidential Memorandum issued in January, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing guidance to Federal agencies to ensure that individuals who are unemployed or have faced financial difficulties because of circumstances like job loss receive fair treatment and consideration for employment by Federal agencies.

**\$170 Million for Ready to Work Partnership Grants**

In January, the President announced that the Department of Labor would make existing funds available to help expand successful partnerships among employers, non-profit organizations, and our public workforce system to provide long-term unemployed job seekers with the range of services, training, and access they need to fill jobs in demand by employers.

Today, the Secretary of Labor is announcing 23 grants from the Department of Labor's H-1B funds — totaling \$170 million — for programs in 20 states and Puerto Rico to support the hiring of long-term unemployed workers. All of the partnerships funded today include the following key features:

- **Employer Engagement and Support in Training Program Design — Including Many Commitments to Consider Hiring Qualified Participants.** Training programs funded by these grants address the skills and competencies needed by employers and high-growth industries, leading to the employment of qualified participants. Many projects include commitments from employers to hire and/or interview program participants that complete work-based training programs.

- **Reemployment Services Tailored to Match Long-Term Unemployed Workers' Individual Needs for Hiring Success.** Each grantee has committed that at least 85 percent of the individuals served will be long-term unemployed. Each grantee will conduct a comprehensive, up-front assessment of an individual's needs and skills, resulting in customized interventions including intensive coaching and other short-term services, short-term training, or longer-term training leading to a degree or certificate.

- **Work-based Training That Enables Earning While Learning Through Models Such as On-the-Job Training (OJT), Paid Work Experience, Paid Internships and Registered Apprenticeships.** All projects will incorporate some form of work-based learning. Fifteen will use formal "on-the-job" training arrangements in which public dollars help subsidize training costs.

**Examples of winning partnerships include:**

- **San Francisco Jewish Vocational Services Tech Start.** Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) worked closely with local companies, including eBay/PayPal, Entelo, Evolv, Zynga, Charles Schwab, and Twitter to develop a training model built on in-demand technology skills, skills demonstrations, networking, and deep employer engagement. JVS will assess long-term unemployed individuals and offer three different career tracks — a five-week intensive job search boot camp, for those who need to refresh their job search skills, repackaging themselves, and accelerate their job-seeking activities; a four-six month training program for those whose relevant experience can be rein-

orated with an in-demand technical skill like Salesforce Administration or Full Stack Web Development; and a longer-term (1-2 year) training program in fields like Network Security.

- **Anne Arundel Workforce Development Corporation — Matching Older Job Seekers to Jobs in Information Technology and Bioscience.** The project will focus on strong outreach to the unemployed as well as a central partnership with the AARP Foundation to reach out to individuals over 50 years of age through their BACK TO WORK 50+ initiative. AARP Foundation will offer co-branded marketing, a toll-free number, and a trained professional call center to reach older workers experiencing long-term unemployment or who have dropped out of the labor force. Individuals will be placed and retrained in information technology and bioscience fields working with employer partners like Assevero Security Consulting, Dunbar Cybersecurity, University of Maryland, and Johns Hopkins University.

- **City of Denver — IT and Advanced Manufacturing.** Denver's program will focus on placing and training the unemployed in information technology and advanced manufacturing fields using a sector approach that convenes employers within these fields to co-design training programs. As an example employer partner, Lockheed Martin has committed to provide work-based learning opportunities, interview program participants for job openings, and hire qualified participants who complete the program.

- **Philadelphia District 1199C Training and Upgrading Fund for In-Demand Jobs in Community Health.** District 1199C, a well-established job training organization in Philadelphia, will add to its healthcare training program by establishing a new Community Health Worker Registered Apprenticeship with local employers including Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Nationwide Healthcare Services, and several local nursing homes. The new apprenticeship program will help to standardize the skills needed for community health care workers across a number of employers, making it clearer what individuals need to do to get these jobs.

**Progress on Best Practices to Recruit and Hire the Long-Term Unemployed**

Lack of opportunities for long-term unemployed Americans is a missed opportunity for employers. The long-term unemployed have slightly higher education and experience than the short-term unemployed, yet evidence exists that they struggle to get a fair shot in the hiring process. Multiple studies show that long-term unemployed applicants are only half as likely to be considered for hiring compared to others with identical education and experience, even though evidence demonstrates that they perform just as well on the job.

In January, the Administration engaged with America's leading businesses to develop best practices for hiring and recruiting the long-term unemployed to ensure that these candidates receive a fair shot during the hiring process. Over 80 of the nation's largest businesses have signed on, including 20 members of the Fortune 50, as well as over 200 small- and medium-sized businesses. Since then, many of them have made meaningful changes in recruiting practices.

Today, the Vice President, the Director of the National Economic Council, and the Secretary of Labor are meeting with the Chief Human Resource Officers of many of these companies. At the roundtable, participants will discuss the improvements their companies have made to their job advertising, screening of candidates, and hiring practices to eliminate barriers to hiring the long-term unemployed

- **Announcing Progress in Implementing Best Practices for Recruiting and Hiring the Long-Term Unemployed:** Many employers who signed the Best Practices Pledge in January are reporting that applying these best practices has led to progress in opening doors to hire the long-term unemployed. Employers have done so through changing their hiring practices, working with local partners to train long-term unemployed job seekers, and supporting job seekers in accessing broad community support. These practices not only support unemployed Americans in getting back to work, but enable the employers implementing them to improve their talent pipelines.

- **Frontier adopts innovative video interviewing techniques.** Frontier has hired over 250 long-term unemployed people since January 2014, representing about 20 percent of Frontier's hires. The company was able to increase its hiring of long-term unemployed applicants by 17 percent after it began video interviewing, which helps to remove biases against the unemployed that may arise from relying on resumes alone.

- **Comcast pilots alternative hiring approaches.** Comcast has been piloting a program that hires on a competency-based model for customer-facing roles. The process now relies less on a resume, or recent work experience, and instead looks almost entirely at the behavioral attributes that will make someone successful in a role, which has opened up a wider talent pool. As a result, Comcast has new hire classes with 10 percent of hires coming from the unemployed. The pay-off is not only a more diverse pool of talented candidates, but also a closer fit on the interpersonal and life-skills that are critical to success but also don't always show up directly on a resume or application.

- **KPMG launches extensive outreach to recruit long-term unemployed.** Although the national unemployment rate is 3.4 percent in the accounting industry, through their outreach and recruiting efforts, KPMG was able to hire approximately 300 individuals from the long-term unemployed population, nearly 10 percent of their total hires for fiscal year 2014.

- **True Blue partners with Skills for Chicagoland's Future.** True Blue, a large staffing provider, has hired 105 unemployed workers into full-time jobs in their Chicago recruiting center in partnership with Skills for Chicagoland's Future, a non-profit that obtains employer commitments to hire the long-term unemployed and finds qualified candidates.

- **Commitment of Leaders in Business Community to Spread Recruiting and Hiring Best Practices to Employers Nationwide, in Partnership with Non-Profits and Philanthropy.** Deloitte and the Rockefeller Foundation are announcing the first results of their work to

# OUT ON THE TOWN

ERIC D. SNIDER'S  
IN THE DARK  
Movie Review  
**John Wick**

*John Wick*  
Grade: B+  
Rated R, a lot of harsh profanity, abundant fighting and shooting violence, a little nudity  
1 hr., 36 min

There's a certain kind of action movie where a former cop/assassin/mercenary is dragged out of retirement for a nefarious act that begs for — nay, demands — justice (this time it's personal, usually), whereupon we are treated to a satisfying tale of violent retribution. John Wick is that kind of movie. In fact, it's determined to be the quintessential That Kind of Movie, slyly boiling the plot down to its barest essentials and exaggerating its hero's power for the sake of humor, all without failing to deliver the impeccably choreographed fight sequences that are the hallmark of a quality production of this genre.

It stars Keanu Reeves and was directed by Chad Stahelski, an experienced stunt coordinator who worked as Reeves' double on several films (including *The Matrix*) and is behind the camera for the first time. You can tell that John Wick is the work of stuntmen because the action is clear, crisp, and coherent enough for viewers to appreciate it.

But more than that, the screenplay (by first-timer Derek Kolstad) skips the baloney and bulks up on the good stuff. Here's what I mean. The film starts with John Wick's wife dying (of natural causes) and bequeathing him the surprise gift of a beagle puppy, a new friend for him to love now that she's gone. John and the puppy are adorable together. They drive around in his car, a 1969 Mustang that he loves almost as much as he loves his dead wife and new puppy.

Then, not four scenes later, Russian gangsters beat him up, steal the car, and kill the puppy.

BOOM, done. Despite knowing almost nothing about John Wick, we're enthusiastically onboard with whatever he plans to do now. Plenty of films would develop John's character first, maybe establish more of



ROTTENTOMATOES  
A former hitman comes out of retirement to track down the gangsters that took everything from him. With New York City as his bullet-riddled playground, JOHN WICK (Keanu Reeves) is a fresh and stylized take on the "assassin genre". (C) Lionsgate

a relationship between him and the car and the dog. Storywise, that's what you "should" do, or whatever. But our filmmakers have assumed, correctly, that the audience for this type of movie would just as soon skip the preliminaries and get to the point. This gentleman needs a good reason to seek revenge. We got it.

The Russian chiefly responsible for John's new misery is Iosef (Alfie Allen), the sniveling thug of crime boss Viggo Tarasov (Michael Nyqvist). Iosef is accustomed to doing whatever he wants without consequence, but his father's reaction to learning that John Wick has been the victim of his infamy is a rude awakening. We come to understand that before he was domesticated, John Wick worked with these Russians and others in the city's elaborately fabricated criminal underworld. (More on that later.) The degree to which the mere mention of John Wick's name strikes fear and awe in people is highly amusing, almost a parody of lethal movie heroes whose reputation precedes them.

The story unfolds in the expected manner. Viggo agrees that Iosef was out of line, but he can't very well let somebody kill his

son, not even John Wick. He puts Iosef in hiding and puts a price on Wick's head, bringing contract killers Marcus (Willem Dafoe) and Jenny (Adrienne Palicki) into the story so they can pop up occasionally as additional obstacles between the protagonist and his goal of killing Iosef.

Though it doesn't do anything overtly self-aware, the film also makes no attempt to hide its shopworn formula. We're given only sparse details on Wick's backstory, no specifics on how such a mild-seeming man came to be so universally feared even by hardened criminals. He just is. And in the same way, the movie is unabashedly straightforward about what it is: a rowdy, barely logical action flick about an indestructible badass hero.

There's something more to it, though, and that's a knowing sense of humor and an eye for world-building details. Wick stays at a fancy, discreet hotel where the desk clerk (Lance Reddick) treats him reverentially. The hotel caters to people in the Sin City-ish criminal underworld, offering a neutral place where business isn't conducted and where a clean-up crew for any unfortunate "incidents" (like maybe

you have to kill a few henchmen who came after you) is on call 24 hours a day. (Bonus: Ian McShane as Winston, an elegant man who gently enforces the hotel's policies.) Over at Viggo's headquarters, there's a running joke where he keeps slipping into Russian while talking to his second-in-command (played by deadpan Dean Cain), whose exasperation over this is never not funny.

Coming after last year's *Man of Tai Chi* (in which Reeves starred and directed), John Wick (which he executive-produced) suggests the once and future Ted "Theodore" Logan is having a lot of fun in this new cycle of high-energy, fight-heavy action films. He's a nimble fighter, as swift at 50 as he was in *The Matrix* at 35, and his characteristic woodenness works in a movie focused on relentless action. Still, when you get right down to it, what he's mostly doing is shooting people. A certain repetitiveness does start to settle in before it's over. But you can forgive that in such a lean, colorful, crowd-pleasing bloodbath, one that so expertly works up our righteous anger and then satisfies our thirst for justice. You never mess with a man's dog!

## Unemployed from A5

capture those best practices in an easy-to-use tool for any employer's HR department to implement companies' practices, and a handbook for long-term unemployed job seekers to improve their job search success. Businesses have begun to pilot these tools and practices and have committed to work together to share them with other employers. Non-profits that touch millions of job seekers across the country have committed to make them available.

○ [Employer Guide to Recruit and Hire Long-Term Unemployed](#). Rockefeller Foundation and Deloitte Consulting created their guide with the input of about 100 White House Best Practice signatories. Deloitte/Rockefeller's Guide to Recruiting and Hiring the Long-Term Unemployed aims to provide a structured guide for companies to self-assess their current practices and practical tools to help employers at every level — from CEOs and Chief Human Resource Officers to recruiters and hiring managers — to tap into the full potential of job seekers who have been unemployed for 6 months or more.

○ [Job Seeker Handbook](#). Based on consultation with leading non-profits that are helping the unemployed get back to work,

Deloitte/Rockefeller's New Guide, New Destinations handbook has a set of interactive tools and workbooks that job seekers can use to search for jobs, understand and build on their strengths, explain their employment gaps, and refresh their skills during their period of unemployment.

○ [Commitment to Spread Long-Term Unemployed Hiring Best Practices Nationwide](#). After piloting the use of these employer and job seeker handbooks in Minneapolis and Chicago, Deloitte, Rockefeller, and their initial employer launch partners — AT&T, Bank of America, CVS, Prudential, Sodexo, US Bank, and Wells Fargo — are making a commitment to work together with other engaged institutions to:

□ Assess and improve effectiveness of talent sourcing practices in identifying strong candidates regardless of employment status.

□ Work with talent channels that include the long-term unemployed.

□ Support growth of proven approaches to helping the long-term unemployed get back to work, such as non-profit employer partnerships, and effective American Job Center programs.

□ Contribute to job seekers' understanding of how to navigate the job search process by providing feedback and coaching to applicants at multiple points in the recruiting and hiring process.

□ Share their success stories and best practices with peer companies including suppliers and customers.

○ Non-Profit Partnerships to Distribute Deloitte/Rockefeller Handbooks and Spread Best Practices.

□ AARP are adding elements of the handbook to its guide "7 Smart Strategies for Workers 50+" distributed to 5,000 older workers across the country and distribute the employer handbook through its online employer resource center.

□ Goodwill will host a webinar for all its members on the handbooks and publicize them on its websites that have reach with over 30,000 job seekers.

□ Skills for Chicagoland's Future, with support of the Aspen Institute's Skills for America's Future, is releasing a full toolkit of resources for organizations creating, incubating, or redefining an existing intermediary to a demand-driven business intermediary that matches training and hiring approaches for the long-term unemployed to local business needs. The playbook can be found at [www.SCFplaybook.com](http://www.SCFplaybook.com).

**Policies to Ensure Federal Government Gives Long-Term Unemployed Jobseekers a Fair Shot**

In January, President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum

to ensure that individuals who are unemployed or have faced financial difficulties through no fault of their own receive fair treatment and consideration for employment by Federal agencies. Federal agencies have already taken steps to review their recruiting and hiring practices accordingly. Today, as the Memorandum directed, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is issuing guidance to assist agencies in implementing the policy established in the Memorandum. OPM's guidance includes explanations and examples, as well as strategies for recruitment and ensuring that there are no undue obstacles during the hiring process.

• In addition, OPM created a "mythbuster" on federal hiring policies, making clear that people who have had gaps in employment and faced financial difficulties through no fault of their own will have a fair shot at obtaining Federal employment. The mythbuster will be linked to job postings on USAJOBS.

• OPM is also providing agencies with model training and updated guidance on complying with the Fair Credit Reporting Act when applicants' credit reports are reviewed as part of agencies' determination as to whether an applicant is suitable for employment.

## The Edge of Sports

by DAVE ZIRIN

### An Interview With NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith

September has been the most tumultuous month in the history of the National Football League. Below is an eye-opening interview with the National Football Player's Association Executive Director DeMaurice Smith, who spoke to me about where the league goes from here. My questions have been edited for clarity, but Smith's answers are as given.

**DAVE ZIRIN:** I believe that the cover-up allegations that have plagued the National Football League over the last month could have been avoided if sanctions for issues like domestic violence had been collectively bargained instead of being left up to the whims of NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. Do you agree with that?

**DEMAURICE SMITH:** Well, yes and no. Look, the reality of it is... And obviously this is colored a bit by my background as a prosecutor/defense lawyer—whether I was handling crimes in the District of Columbia or handling high-profile issues for Fortune 500 companies where people do things that we didn't want them to do—where I started is, look, we're all flawed people. And as a result, there were always going to be times where people end up doing things that we wish they hadn't. So that's where it starts. Where you pick up, where I think—insightfully—you're right, is after something like that happens, when we know that those things are going to happen. What we have always relied on is a transparency of process, a belief in due process, a fundamental vision of fairness for everybody. And, when that process breaks down, it breaks down on top of the issues that we know are going to happen. So, to your point, yes, if things are handled in the right way we tend to get through them... but much like the criminal justice system, where every day is predicated on something bad happening, the reason why it doesn't all crumble down on itself is that there is a process that people have faith in. And when they lose faith in that process, that's when you find yourself in sort of intractable situations with imperfect answers.

**A lot of folks out there have no faith in the NFL's process. Can you understand why many people, myself included, think that the NFL needs a new commissioner at this point?**

That's not my job. As you can imagine, I'm able to fill a day with the number of the things that I have to do without making or expressing opinions about other people's jobs. I never concern myself with it. What I do believe is important is: one, this is a union that prides itself on being a labor union, just like the AFL-CIO, just like the Teamsters, just like the Communication Workers who—by the way—should rightfully congratulate themselves on a new deal in the airline industry. But, that said, our job is to serve our members and to make decisions that are in their best interest. And that's what we're going to do. And I don't think that it is every helpful to overly personalize this process. Nobody hired me to take a position on Roger Goodell. And when I look at my duties as the executive director, there isn't one of them that says to react personally about anything. So our job is to take a look at why we are here. I understand the outrage of our fans. I certainly understand the dissatisfaction that's been expressed by our sponsors over how these issues have been handled. And it's our intention to make sure that things like this are never mishandled again.

**Does the union have a position about how the NFL should approach the issue of domestic violence?**

You're not going to like my answer. My answer is "yes."... Look, I think that any system between management and labor that is collectively bargained is not only good for the workers, and in our case the players, but I also think it's good for management. And here's the shocker, I actually think it's good for everyone who are collateral stakeholders in that business. To me, if I were a major sponsor of the National Football League, I would want to know that there was a collectively bargained process that would instill a sense of due process, fairness, transparency that issues like this have been thought out in advance. And we don't find ourselves in a world where we are experiencing what I would call reactive addressing of critical issues instead of thinking about these things proactively where vision, inspiration, discipline and deliberate thought are always those things that tend to provide more stability in any process than simply reacting to what happens from day to day. So the union has a position on it, we have made a decision that when it comes to looking at the issue of not only domestic violence but violence in the workplace, violence in the home, that we want and will consult a group of people who we believe that will provide us with the best practices, and we will invite the [management of the] National Football League—and I'm happy to say that they've agreed to be a part of that process. And we will come up with the best decisions, the best practices in a collectively bargained way.

**Now, being the executive director of a union means you, of course, have to look out for the greater good and not personalize these cases—not unlike a defense attorney. Everybody has the right to a defense. And you can't get caught up in saying, "That person just offends my morality to such a degree that I'm not going to offer them a defense, so let's throw them to the wolves." In the last year, the union was in the position to have to defend Richie Incognito. Now of course Ray Rice is going to appeal. Are there ever discussions inside the NFLPA about the morality of defending players in certain cases?**

# Calendar of Events

October 30 — November 5, 2014

## Xtreme Teens: Game Night

Date and Time: Thursday, October 30, 2014 4-7 pm  
Description: Come enjoy a night of full night of awesome movies, classic games and video games. Games include UNO, Connect Four, pool, Xbox One, and other favorites!  
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: Mount Rainier Nature and Recreation Center  
4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier 20712  
Contact: 301-927-2163; TTY 301-445-4512

## Halloween Glow Party

Date and Time: Friday, October 31, 2014 7-10 pm  
Description: Get ready for the Halloween Glow Party! Come dressed in costume and enjoy a frighteningly good time.  
Cost: Resident: \$3; Non-Resident: \$4  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: Mount Rainier Nature and Recreation Center  
4701 31st Place, Mount Rainier 20712  
Contact: 301-927-2163; TTY 301-699-2544

## Extreme Teens: "Thriller" Halloween Party & Dance

Date and Time: Friday, October 31, 2014 7-10 pm  
Description: Get ready to dance your heart out as your favorite character at our "Thriller" Halloween party! Prizes will be awarded for the best costume. Light Refreshments will be served.  
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: North Brentwood Community Center  
4012 Webster Street, North Brentwood 20722  
Contact: 301-864-0756; TTY 301-445-4512

## Family Costume Party

Date and Time: Friday, October 31, 2014, 4-6:30 pm  
Description: Looking for something fun to do with the family before you go trick or treating with the kids? Stop by Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center for an evening of fun and games, including a magic show, pumpkin decorating, and more. Don't forget to come dressed in your Halloween costumes! Prizes will be awarded to the family with the best costumes. This event will be hosted by Councilwoman Mary A. Lehman, in partnership with The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), Department of Parks and Recreation. For questions or to RSVP for this event, please call 301-952-5349.  
Cost: FREE  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Laurel-Beltsville Senior Activity Center  
7120 Contee Road, Laurel 20707  
Contact: 301-206-3350; TTY 301-446-3402

## Halloween Without the Screams

Date & Time: Friday, October 31, 2014 6:30-8:30 pm  
Description: No need to be frightened on Halloween. Instead this fun-filled night of carnival games, arts & crafts, a costume parade and our Trunk-A-Treat Finale!  
Cost: Resident: \$5; Non-Resident: \$6  
Ages: 12 & under  
Location: Southern Regional Technology & Recreation Complex  
7007 Bock Road Fort Washington, MD 20744  
Contact: 301-749-4160; TTY 301-203-6030

## Xtreme Teens: Halloween Costumes

Date and Time: Friday, October 31, 2014 7-10 pm  
Description: Here's a cool way to celebrate Halloween--with the scariest costume contest! Join us tonight and hope you have the best costume around.  
Cost: Free with M-NCPPC Youth ID  
Ages: 10-17  
Location: Prince George's Plaza Community Center  
6600 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville 20784  
Contact: 301-864-1611; TTY 301-445-4512

## Hollywood and the Civil War: Shenandoah Event

Date & Time: Saturday, November 1, 2014 6-8:30 pm  
Description: Released in 1968, this film tells the story of Charlie Anderson (Jimmy Stewart), a farmer in Shenandoah, Virginia, who finds himself (and his family) in the middle of the Civil War. He decides not to get involved in the war because he believes it is not "his" war. But, he eventually has to get involved, when someone in his family is in danger.  
Cost: Free  
Ages: All ages welcome  
Location: Surratt House Museum  
9118 Brandywine Road, Clinton 20735  
Contact: 301-868-1121; TTY 301-699-2544

## Around the World with Wilbur Wright

Date and Time: Saturday, November 1, 2014 12 -3 pm  
Description: See the world without even leaving the museum. College Park Aviation Museum invites you to participate in a fun and educational tour of the museum, where you can make your own passport, visit places around the world, and learn a little bit about aviation history. Visit the museum's front lobby area to get started on your trip around the world!  
Cost: FREE with museum admission  
Ages: 8 & up  
Location: College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive  
College Park MD 20740  
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

## Homeschool Day

Date and Time: Monday, November 3, 2014 11 am-2 pm  
Description: Home-schooled students of all ages and their parent-educators are invited to the museum for a day of learning and adventure. Aviation themed activities and crafts will address learning in science, math, language, and art. Please call the museum in advance to register.  
Cost: \$4 per person  
Ages: 8 & up  
Location: College Park Aviation Museum  
1985 Cpl. Frank Scott Drive, College Park MD 20740  
Contact: 301-864-6029; TTY 301-699-2544

# EARTH TALK ... Artificial Turf Issues

Dear EarthTalk:

Is it true that playing on artificial turf fields can cause cancer? If so, how can I minimize exposure for my sports-loving kids?

— Melanie Witmer,  
Syracuse, NY

Just when you thought it was safe to play soccer on that brand new synthetic turf field, it may be time to think again. Those little black dirt-like granules that fill up the space between synthetic blades of grass and make up some 90 percent of today's artificial turf fields are actually ground-up car and truck tires. As such they contain a host of potentially noxious chemicals that can lead to a wide range of health problems.

Four of the constituent chemicals in these "tire crumbs" (or "tire mulch") as they are called—arsenic, benzene, cadmium and nickel—are deemed carcinogens by the International Agency for Cancer Research. Others have been linked to skin, eye and respiratory irritation, kidney and liver problems, allergic reactions, nervous systems disorders and developmental delays.

While the risk came to light recently when a University of Washington women's soccer coach began to think it might be more than a coincidence that two of her goalies were stricken with cancer, researchers have known about such potential links for

years. A 2007 report by the Connecticut-based Environment & Human Health Inc. (EHHI) looked at several scientific studies and found definitive connections between various health problems and exposure to synthetic turf.

EHHI also reported that kids on playfields are likely to face similar risks as line workers in the rubber fabrication and reclamation industries, where they say health reports show the presence of multiple volatile organic hydrocarbons and other toxic elements in the air. "Studies at tire reclamation sites report leaching of similar sets of chemicals into the ground water," says the group.

The Synthetic Turf Council, an industry group, maintains that there is considerable evidence pointing to the health safety of synthetic turf. But the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) isn't taking sides, leaving it up to state and local jurisdictions to decide whether or not to allow artificial turf. The EPA would like to see more research done so parents everywhere can have a better idea of the risks involved.

Of course, synthetic turf fields aren't all bad. For one, they don't need frequent watering (a grass playing field typically requires 50,000 gallons of water per week during growing season) and doesn't require the application of potentially toxic pesticides. Furthermore, turf is much more durable and less costly to maintain than grass,



CREDIT: TONY BERNARD, FLICKR

**Four of the constituent chemicals in the "tire crumbs" (ground up truck tires) used in artificial turf are deemed carcinogens by the International Agency for Cancer Research. Others have been linked to skin, eye and respiratory irritation, kidney and liver problems, allergic reactions, nervous system disorders and developmental delays.**

and players suffer fewer injuries on it since it doesn't turn to slippery mud when wet.

Do these pros outweigh the cons? Some schools don't think so and are turning back plans to convert their grass fields to turf. Where it is too late for that, parents should warn their little athletes to stay upright as much as possible—turf-related cancers seem to be most common in goalies who spend the most time down on the turf surface. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that those playing on synthetic turf avoid eating or drinking on the field where toxic dust can contaminate food and liquids, wash their hands and body

aggressively with soap and water afterwards, and remove clothes worn on the field and turn them inside out before washing them separately from other items.

CONTACTS: International Agency for Cancer Research, [www.iarc.fr](http://www.iarc.fr); EHHI, [www.ehhi.org](http://www.ehhi.org); Synthetic Turf Council, [www.syntheticurf-council.org](http://www.syntheticurf-council.org); CDC, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

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Send questions to: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com).

## Solution from A1

More than 90 percent of rapes involve alcohol, according to Stephanie Rivero, the assistant coordinator for the CARE to Stop Violence program at the University of Maryland.

Many of these alcohol-related rapes also involve drink tampering, but it is hard to find accurate statistics about these cases.

Rohypnol, known by the street name "roofies," is a

sedative that causes victims whose drinks are spiked with it to have no recollection of events. It is among the most well known date rape drugs, though there are many others that can have similar effects on victims.

"There are a lot of challenges with date rape," Rivero said. "The traditional idea of roofies being the date rape drug is not true anymore. Many people use over-the-counter painkillers and prescription drugs."

Rivero said she thinks the DrinkLock is a great idea, although the challenge is that it places the burden on the victim to remember to place the cover on.

But there are others who herald it as a great invention to prevent drink spiking.

"It's going to take a lot longer to change the culture and to change the predator's mindset, and in the meantime, we need ways to prevent the risk," Cloe Buzan,

a bartender in Bethesda, Maryland, said.

The DrinkLocks have made their way across the country, and even across the globe, with covers popping up in California and even in Germany. Bokman and Mills say they are working on a more effective version, which they hope to release soon.

DrinkLock coasters are available in quantities of 20 or more for 50 cents apiece at [www.drinklock.com](http://www.drinklock.com).

## Interview from A6

There's never a discussion about whether we will defend the rights of our players—ever. And I'm proud of that, because I think that it reflects an understanding by our player leadership. And I'm proud of our senior player leadership when the only question they have is, "What's our next step?" So, we have the pleasure of working with a group of highly passionate people. But you and I both know, and every first-year law school student hopefully knows, that our criminal justice system and the protections that are instilled in it have all been predicated on some situations where we're looking at the rights of someone that's been accused of doing something wrong. If it's Gideon v. Wainwright about the right to legal representation, that case starts with a multiple arrestee in the criminal justice system. If you look at Brady v. Maryland and the obligations of prosecutors to disclose exculpatory information, those cases began with someone who was accused of wrongdoing and we want that process to ensure that, nonetheless, despite [their] being accused, we're going to require fairness and due process under the constitution. So, no, we never take a look that there's a class or a group or an individual who doesn't deserve due process.

**It like you're also saying you stand with the idea of not having players suspended if they're accused of a crime like domestic violence, but it should be played out through the courts first.**

Well, what I'm saying is that no one should be punished based on a low threshold of something occurring. And look, personally I've been in that situation where I've been handcuffed and put in the back of a squad car because I happened to be driving a car early in the morning that the police found suspicious. And that is something that I will never forget. And I was a federal prosecutor at the time. So, no, I don't believe that punishment should be triggered by something that could be as random and as invasive as the situation that I went through. So, to me I think the trigger here is whether it constitutes punishment. If a player makes a decision, or a person in corporate America who finds himself in an unfortunate situation... corporations every day choose to put people on leave with pay while the process plays out. That's not discipline, that's providing the person an opportunity with pay to work their situation out without the stigma of being demoted or deactivated or punished in advance.

**When things transpire like they have over the last month, is it the sort of thing where it's exhausting because of the level of scrutiny and pressure, or is it the sort of thing that's exhilarating because what's been frankly pointed out are a lot of the holes in the process that you've been pointing out for several years. Namely, the Roger Goodell, judge and jury, personal conduct policy. So it's like, "Ok, I've been proven right by the facts. Now we can actually talk about this." What's the emotional thrust coming from your office?**

Oh, from the office... Look, we're blessed to have over a hundred professionals. And for me, what makes my job extremely easy are the players that I have the privilege of serving and the staff who works tirelessly to protect their rights. The only thing that's grueling for me is, this'll be the fourth team meeting in a week. The fourth night I've been in a separate city, and I'm

looking forward to getting back to DC at some point. That tends to take a toll on a body. But as far as the issues, it's not that exhausting. To me, I'm actually happy when we all get to have teaching moments. Because there are times when you can talk about issues in a vacuum or when you can raise very complex ideas in a space and in a time when people are not in a position to hear it or understand it or appreciate it. And issues, for example, of personal conduct, the actions of the commissioner's office, the way in which they conduct investigations, our concern that they reach an answer first, and begin to build evidence for that answer later... as they did in BountyGate. Those were issues that we've been talking about since the Bounty investigation, and if you want to look before that, you remember the StarCaps case where they sought to punish players who relied on their own hotline about what ingredients were in a certain drug. A judge in that case—think about this for a second—in StarCaps, a judge in that case came to a conclusion that the commissioner engaged in a game of "gotcha." That's what a judge wrote. The judge wrote that a member of the commissioner's staff was legally incredible to believe. And that was four years ago. So, this is an issue that has percolated to the surface at times, but has percolated over a number of years. And to me, the only good news is that it has reached a public level of consciousness and a sponsor level of consciousness where it now demands change.

**We're living in a post-Donald Sterling world. Given what has happened in the NFL, do you think we should live in a sports environment where owners can be asked/told to sell their teams if they're not acting in the best interest of the league?**

Let me answer in this way. In football, we have always said that not only do you have to be, obviously, physically and mentally able to play this game. But based on your conduct or other issues, you are not entitled to be a part of this league. And, since time immemorial, more often than not those decisions have been directed almost exclusively, with some exceptions, towards the player. Now, in the past, has the National Football League made decisions like that with respect to owners? Yes. The DeBartolo situation in the past, is one example where they made decisions based on what had happened in the criminal justice system that an owner had to do X, Y and Z. The only thing that I can say about that now is that it does seem to me that fairness and the equal applicability of those standards is what we should all be aspiring to. And, living in a world where we know that there was an owner who has run afoul of the criminal justice system, and was recently disciplined by the commissioner. You know that that's an issue we talked a lot about, because we wanted to see if the same standards apply to an owner who was arrested and ultimately convicted for misconduct. We know that judges, for example, have written lengthy opinions about owners who were engaged in long-running fraudulent conduct. Those owners weren't punished. We know that there have been owners who have been the subject of criminal investigations where virtually all their subordinates were convicted or have pled. That owner has not been punished. We know that there was an instance of an owner that, unfortunately a woman overdosed in a house that he owns. No one has said anything about that. So, to me the most really enlightening or inspiring moments are when facts themselves speak truth to power.